



FEBRUARY 2016

The Bay Leaf

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY + EAST BAY CHAPTER
ALAMEDA & CONTRA COSTA COUNTIES

WWW.EBCNPS.ORG

WWW.GROUPS.GOOGLE.COM/GROUP/EBCNPS

MEMBERS' MEETING

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 pm

**Bryophytes and Their Biology: Mosses Are from Mars,
Vascular Plants Are from Venus**

Speakers: Brent Mishler, David Hutton, Kiamara Ludwig

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Library (see directions below)

Seen one moss, seen them all? Not likely, since there are more than 12,000 species of mosses on our planet. And mosses are just one of the three lineages of bryophytes, a grouping of non-vascular land plants that includes more than 20,000 species of hornworts, liverworts, and mosses.

In California as in the world, bryophytes have received much less attention than vascular plants, but that is about to change! In May of 2015, a group of people who appreciate the diversity, adaptability, and importance of bryophytes founded a new CNPS chapter focused on this plant group rather than on a geographic region of the state. Their mission is to teach the rest of us about these fascinating little plants, to "increase understanding and appreciation of California's mosses, liverworts and hornworts, and to protect them and the habitats in which they grow."

At this month's meeting, they will introduce us to the intriguing world of bryophytes through a slide presentation, share information about the chapter's Mount Diablo bryophyte inventory project, and entice us with descriptions of hikes they will be offering on the mountain.

Brent Mishler is Director of the University and Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley, as well as a professor in the Department of Integrative Biology, where he teaches systematics and plant diversity and heads the Bryolab. David Hutton PhD, a business development consultant in biotechnology and the life sciences, has had a keen interest in bryophytes since his high school days in the UK. Kiamara Ludwig is a founding member of the Bryophyte Chapter and served on the steering committee that brought it into being.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor

of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. If you have questions, email sr0433@yahoo.com or call 510-496-6016.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.



Silvery bryum moss (*Bryum argenteum*) grows on Mount Diablo. Photo by George Shepherd.

Valentine's Weekend Special Sale at Native Here Nursery

Saturday and Sunday, February 13th and 14th, 2016: 10 am- 2 pm

Early entry at **9 am** on Saturday will be available for CNPS members

Member sign-up will be available at the door

Volunteers needed! Please let us know if you would like to assist at the event

Join us for our late winter sale at Native Here Nursery! Early February is one of the best times to get almost anything planted before the rains end. CNPS members will be allowed special early entry at 9 am on Saturday, which will be a great opportunity to get first pick of our new crop of manzanitas, milkweed, early annuals, iris, and more.

Local plant experts will be on hand to answer your questions about the best plants to choose for your garden. Whether you're a veteran native plant gardener or you are brand new to gardening, you'll be sure to find something beautiful to brighten up your yard and invite the wild back into your life at Native Here Nursery.

About Native Here Nursery

Native Here is a non-profit nursery dedicated to growing plants for restoration of parklands and gardening projects. Conservation and restoration are at the heart of Native Here's mission and the nursery is dependent on community engagement from volunteers to run efficiently. Native Here is a special project of the East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, which is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Native Here Nursery

Open Year Round for Plant Sales

Tues: 12-3 pm, Friday: 9 am-12 pm, Saturday: 10 am-2 pm

101 Golf Course Road, Berkeley, CA

<http://nativeherenursery.org/>

nativehere@ebcnps.org

(510) 549-0211

IN MEMORIAM SYLVIA MCLAUGHLIN

The East Bay Chapter of CNPS—and the Bay Area conservation community as a whole—lost a beloved member in late January. Sylvia McLaughlin, a long-time member of EBCNPS, was co-founder of the nonprofit group Save the Bay more than 50 years ago. At the time, McLaughlin saw garbage being dumped on the shoreline, marshlands being filled and raw sewage being emptied into the Bay; a third of the bay had already been filled or diked off, and only 10 percent of the original wetlands remained. Developers were planning to fill in most of what remained of the Bay. Through tireless activism McLaughlin was instrumental in the creation of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which placed

a moratorium on filling the Bay, and the establishment of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

Passing on her love of native plants on, McLaughlin often brought her grandchildren to Native Here Nursery. At the ripe age of 91 years (!) she took part in the 2007 tree-sitting protest to protect the majestic coast live oaks in front of Memorial Stadium. Charli Danielsen, founder of Native Here, said, “Sylvia McLaughlin is a great example for all of us to keep fighting for what is beautiful in nature and never to give up.”

NEW CONSERVATION ANALYST

Welcome Karen Whitestone, our new conservation analyst

The Conservation Committee is delighted to introduce its new Conservation Analyst, Karen Whitestone, beginning work on February 1. Karen earned her bachelor’s degree in biological sciences at UC Davis with an emphasis in plant biology. There she conducted a study on the rare *Konocit manzanita* (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* ssp. *elegans*). After graduation, she worked for the Stanislaus National Forest Service for two

seasons, leading rare plant surveys and invasive plant mapping in areas affected by the Rim Fire. She knows ArcGIS, is a master gardener, and is familiar with many vegetation sampling techniques. Lest we think Karen is completely a plant geek, she has also shared that she was a member of the UC Davis women’s ultimate Frisbee team!

Barbara Leitner
East Bay Chapter president

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 20 at 2 pm, field trip to Huckleberry Regional Park
Rain Date: February 21 at 2 pm

Janet Gawthrop will lead a beginner-level field trip focusing on early flowering shrubs in the maritime chaparral population on the upper portion of the loop trail. We will however walk the entire loop, with an additional side trip if weather and interest permit. For plant lists and preview photos the best on-line source is www.calflora.org.

Directions: From either direction, take Highway 13 and exit at Park Boulevard. Turn left at the ramp, cross over 13, and then turn left again at the traffic light. After driving parallel to 13 for several blocks turn right onto Snake Road at the traffic light. Follow Snake Road all the way uphill to its other end, at the junction with Skyline. Turn left onto Skyline and follow it to the Huckleberry Park lot.

Sunday, February 28, 2 pm, Redwood Regional Park. David Margolies will lead a walk along the stream and on the slopes above Redwood Creek in this large East Bay redwood forest,

looking at early flowering plants and the trees and shrubs of the redwood forest. We will also look for newts and rainbow trout in Redwood Creek. The whole walk is about 2.5 miles with steep uphill and steep downhill portions. Walkers who want to avoid the steep trails can return along the stream trail about halfway through the walk. Meet at the Redwood Gate parking area at 2:00 pm.

Directions: To get there from the northern East Bay, get on 13 South (go east on Ashby Avenue in Berkeley, for example) and take the Redwood Road exit. From the southern East Bay, take 580 West to 13 North and exit at Redwood Road (immediately after the junction). Once on Redwood Road, go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and then pass various equestrian facilities. Go down into the valley. About two miles from Skyline Boulevard, turn left into Redwood Regional Park, following the entrance road to the end to the parking lot. Walk takes place rain or shine.

Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain.

Henry David Thoreau

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION

While to the best of our knowledge there are no Venus flytraps present at Pt. Isabel, another voracious bug eater has returned and is munching its way happily through the flying insect population. The black phoebe perches on the native shrubs along the Bay Trail and watches. And then it flits toward its practically invisible prey and snap! Lunch!

Fortunately the phoebe is small so we don't have to worry about losing any volunteers. In fact, we had a sweet group of Japanese exchange students come out on drizzly January 9 to work with Steward Nina in removing masses of radish sprouts from around the beautiful purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) on the small hill on Nina's site. These UC Berkeley Language Institute students from Kyoto and their chaperone, Joe, were not in the least deterred by the intermittent light rain but continued freeing up the grasses as well as the seedlings of California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and tansy-leaved phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*) that were being overshadowed by the weeds. We were impressed with their hard work.

Earlier in January we worked on Steward Margot's City of Richmond Adopt-a-Spot at the corner of Central Avenue and Rydin Road. Over the past two months we have removed thousands of invasive mallow sprouts and with a great deal of help from core volunteers Gudrun and Margot we planted two coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) that we had purchased from Native Here. They replace some non-native oak saplings that were planted before we adopted the site and that did not survive.

The volunteer crew is delighted with our rainy weather. No matter rain sprinkles or chilly temperatures, core volunteers John, Rob, Myriam, Lewis and Nancy take every chance to remove the weeds from the softened soil, to spread mulch, and to pick up every nanoparticle of trash.

Many thanks to our fantastic EBRPD ranger Bruce Adams! We are honored to have his support and could not do our work without him.

Jane and Tom Kelly



Pt. Isabel volunteers around a pile of uprooted weeds. Photo by Jane Kelly.

MORE PT. ISABEL PICTURES



Top: Core volunteers; bottom: planting a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Photos by Jane Kelly.

FEBRUARY RESTORATION

Saturday, February 6, 10 am - 2 pm, Pt. Isabel in Eastshore State Park, at the end of Rydin Road, off Central Avenue in Richmond.

Saturday, February 13, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park
Meet with park staff at the main parking lot, where you can pick up loaner tools, gloves and snacks while we look at soil conditions and figure out where best to work. Weeding usually goes on until about 1pm, so please let us know if you need to leave early.

Saturday, February 14, 10 am - 2 pm, Pt. Isabel in Eastshore State Park, at the end of Rydin Road, off Central Avenue in Richmond.

Sunday, February 21, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park
Meet us at the Skyline parking lot on the Oakland side of the park to get tools and check the weather. If conditions remain as muddy in February as they were this past week, then we will likely form carpools to the Old Tunnel Road staging area. A couple of our younger volunteers really enjoyed puddle jumping, but it does slow down getting to the wall of broom.

If you have any questions about any of these events please e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Janet Gawthrop

Saturday, February 20, 10 am-noon, Garber Park
Garber Park is near the Claremont Hotel in Claremont Canyon. Help with in-situ fern propagation and invasive weed removal. Meet at the Claremont Avenue entrance. From there we will walk the trails of Garber looking for ferns that we can dig up, divide and transplant nearby, and remove invasive weeds along the trails. After a very successful workshop in January led by Lech Naumovich of the Golden Hour Restora-

tion Institute on the techniques of in-situ fern transplanting we are excited to try out our newly learned skills, and eager to teach others.

Wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves and sturdy boots or shoes. We provide tools, gloves, and snacks, but if you have a sharp tool such as a hori hori, trowel, or clippers please bring them. Also bring a water bottle to fill up from our water container.

Directions to the Claremont Avenue entrance: Many of you have been to Garber before and have your own favorite way of getting here, but for those who aren't familiar with the park a map and directions can be found on our website www.garberparkstewards.org. Click on Directions in the menu bar at the top.

For more information contact Shelagh garberparkstewards@gmail.com.

Shelagh Brodersen

Volunteer Coordinator, Garber Park Stewards

Email: garberparkstewards@gmail.com

Tel: 510-517-1918

Blog: www.garberparkstewards.org

Saturday, February 27, 9:30-11:30 am

Join Friends of Albany Hill for the last Saturday of the month work party. Location to be determined. Rains have softened the soil, making it easier to pull weeds. Gloves and tools provided but bring a favorite weeding tool if you like. Wear closed-toed shoes with good traction and clothes that can get dirty. Long pants and long sleeves recommended. We'll work in a light rain, but moderate rain cancels. For more info: friendsalbanyhill@gmail.com.

Margot Cunningham

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Saturday, February 6, 10 am -4 pm (participants don't have to stay the whole time), curatorial volunteers needed at the University and Jepson Herbaria.

Volunteers needed to mount, sort, and file a backlog of plant collections from California and around the world, some decades old. While providing assistance with the specimens that are the raw data on which our knowledge of the California flora is based, you'll learn more about the California flora, gain first-hand experience with herbarium techniques, and have the opportunity to socialize with fellow native plant enthusiasts. No previous herbarium experience is necessary, but a level of dexterity and attention to detail is valued.

Later volunteer days are March 5, April 16 and May 7. The University and Jepson Herbaria are in the Valley Life Sciences Building on the UC Berkeley campus. The entrance is on the ground floor of the atrium, in front of the *Tyrannosaurus rex*. The downtown Berkeley BART station is nearby, as are many bus lines, and free parking can generally be found along streets north of campus (posted 2 hour time limit is in effect only on weekdays). Individual volunteers are welcome during our regular hours as well (M-F, 8 am-5 pm). For more information call 510-642-2465.

Margot Cunningham

The finest qualities of our nature, like the bloom on fruits, can be preserved only by the most delicate handling. Yet we do not treat ourselves nor one another thus tenderly.

Henry David Thoreau, Walden

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list
Emailed announcements of
upcoming EBCNPS events
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mlbooz@calnatives.com

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Walnut Creek
Lesley Hunt, leader
925-937-6791
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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

___ Individual, \$45

___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

___ Plant lover, \$100

___ Patron, \$300

___ Benefactor, \$600

___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

___ Limited Income or student, \$25.00

___ Other _____